

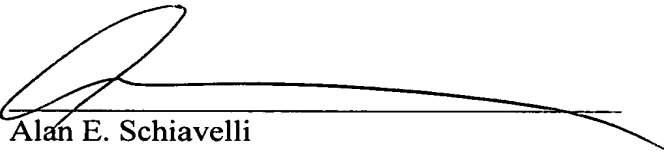
REMARKS

The foregoing amendments are respectfully requested prior to examination on the merits of this application. A marked up copy of the amended claims is attached.

To the extent necessary, applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in the fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to the deposit account of Antonelli, Terry, Stout & Kraus, LLP, Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (Case: 306.41404X00), and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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4. (Amended) Method for operating a triggering unit according to ~~any of claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1, characterised in that the microprocessor (20) is loaded with a programme corresponding to the current requirements during production of the triggering unit or at least before use thereof.
7. (Amended) Method according to ~~any of claims 4 to 6~~ claim 4, characterised in that the microprocessor (20) can also process internet protocols.
8. (Amended) Method according to ~~any of claims 4 to 7~~ claim 4, characterised in that the operating software is implemented at random instants on an unprogrammed triggering unit or higher order subassembly (such as detonators).
9. (Amended) Method according to ~~any of claims 4 to 8~~ claim 4, characterised in that the programming lines of the microprocessor are used as data inputs and outputs.
10. (Amended) Method according to ~~any of claims 4 to 9~~ claim 4, characterised in that the switching output (24) can be reinforced by discrete components.
11. (Amended) Method according to ~~any of claims 4 to 10~~ claim 4, characterised in that communication between the triggering unit and the ignition device can be uni- or bi-directional in a demand-driven manner.
12. (Amended) Method according to ~~any of claims 4 to 11~~ claim 4, characterised in that the triggering unit and the ignition device can communicate using various media, such as metallic conductor (cable), optical fibre, ultrasound or high frequency.